



Please tune your car radio to 101.3 FM

Parking lot worship for

Sunday, December 13, 2020

Worship Leader: Randy Koppenhaver

Organist: Kathy Bowe

If you plan to sit outside please put your mask on before leaving your car. You may also want to wear a mask if you remain sitting in your car with the windows open. The CDC recommends individuals age two and older wear masks. ***Remember, if you plan to sit outside you will need to sit next to your car so you are able to hear the radio broadcast.***

- The church will be open for restroom use only.
- The rules for social distancing remain in effect. Stay a minimum of 6 feet from each other and wear a mask that covers both your mouth and nose.
- Scrip will be available for purchase before and after worship. We ask that when purchasing scrip cards that only one person be at the scrip table at a time.

RINGING OF THE BELLS

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

L: In this season of Advent, we celebrate God's joy.

P: Knowing that Christ is coming to bring healing and wholeness to the world is a source of delight!

L: When we gather for worship it is a celebration, an opportunity to rejoice in all that God is doing among us and beyond us.

P: We welcome our neighbors and celebrate God's goodness.

L: Even when we face difficulty and trouble we sing a song of faith, confident that Jesus is able to redeem our suffering world.

P: Together, we are a sign of God's joy for the world.

(The candles are lit)

L: Let us pray:

P: God of transformation, we rejoice that you lift up the lowly and bind up the broken hearted. We marvel at your power to change hearts and lives. Fill us

with your Spirit this season so that our voices declare your goodness and our lives proclaim your mercy in Jesus Christ. Amen.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Rejoice!

The spirit of God is sending us:

**People: to bring good news to the oppressed,
to comfort the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
to proclaim the year of favor among God's people.**

Leader: Rejoice!

The work of the Spirit is calling us:

**People: To rebuild ancient relationships ruined by injustice,
To repair the cities as places of hope,
To restore land devastated across generations.
to proclaim the year of favor among God's people.**

Leader: Rejoice!

The Glory of the Spirit is leading us:

**People: To cast off any faint spirit
and put on the mantle of praise,
To take root as the plantings of the HOLY ONE,
to display God's glory.**

Leader: Come, let us worship in Joy!

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, we rejoice in this season of anticipation as we remember your promises and look forward to ways that you reveal yourself to us. May your presence be real to us in this hour. Strengthen us for victories over temptation, for renewal of our love for you and for one another, for leadership and service in your church. We give thanks that you have called us into community and commissioned us to make a difference in the world. Equip us here for the tasks you set before us. Amen.

SONG #133 “Lo, How a Rose E’re Blooming”

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 61:1-11

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; ²to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. ⁵Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, foreigners shall till your land and dress your vines; ⁶but you shall be called priests of the LORD, you shall be named ministers of our God; you shall enjoy the wealth of the nations, and in their riches you shall glory. ⁷Because their shame was double, and dishonor was proclaimed as their lot, therefore they shall possess a double portion; everlasting joy shall be theirs. ⁸For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

John 1:6-28

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens

everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. ²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

MESSAGE

SONG # 115

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

PASTORAL PRAYER...LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

COMMISSION & BENEDICTION:

One: Christ is coming, rejoice!

All: From generation to generation we are blessed.

One: Christ is coming, rejoice!

All: The lowly will receive confidence, the powerful will be humbled.

One: Christ is coming, rejoice!

All: There is hope for the poor and the hungry.

One: Christ is coming, rejoice!

All: God, faithful in times past, will remain faithful to us and to our church.

Amen.

... POSTLUDE

Those in our thoughts and prayers:

Joys:

Families who have lost loved ones:

Eugene Schmidt, Sr. (father of Tammy Westphalen)
Knapp Family

Those struggling with health issues:

Warren Fidlin
Macullen Schnell (friend of Tasha Rabe)
Polly Jeanty
Dan Wempner
Ross Westphalen
Nenahlo Family
JQ - Student of Randy
Theo Marcus
Bonnie Neuhaus (mother of Dawn Muehlbauer)
Karen Schlegel
Jane Markelz
Dale Horneck

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin and Doris Mae Ninmer, Carol Meiselwitz,

When sending Christmas cards this year, please consider our members in assisted living facilities:

Merlin and Doris Mae
Ninmer
c/o Field Of Dreams Asst.
Living
505 Belitz Dr.
Kiel, WI 53042

Carol Meiselwitz
c/o The Waterford at
Plymouth
2586 Valley Rd.
Plymouth, WI 53073

Olivia Marie
Jessica Horneck

Other concerns:

Division in the U.S.

Health Care workers

Those who are out of work

Racial Justice and equality in our country

Those whose businesses are struggling

People who live in places where violence prevails.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- This holiday season, the Sunday School is collecting items for the Treffert Center in Fond du Lac. The Treffert Center offers services to children with autism, behavioral and communication disorders, in addition to preschool and after-school programs.

Materials in need are:

- Packs of Construction Paper · Play-dough · Play-dough tools · Kinetic Sand · Children's Paint Brushes · Water color paints · Shaving Cream · Bubbles · Larger plastic beads to string · Yoga Balls · Markers · Arts and Crafts Supplies (pom poms, trinkets, glitter, beads, etc.) · Blue Painters Tape
 - A box is located near the church entrance. Monetary donations are also accepted.
- Christmas lights not working? Don't throw them away - Bethlehem recycles them! Place them beneath the mail boxes and the proceed help support the Building Maintenance Fund.
 - The Loads of Love Laundry ministry had its biggest turnout on December 7. We served four family units who were referred by the NH schools and St. Vinnie's of Kiel. We had just under \$80 in expenditures. We could use your help! In addition to cash donations, we are in need of more Tide Pods and dryer sheets. If writing a check, please make it out to "Bethlehem Missions" and note LAUNDRY in the memo. If you'd like to be involved, let Randy know.

- If you are able, consider challenging yourself and your family to STOCK the SHELVES to help a family in need. Items will be collected at our Christmas Eve Living Nativity Parking Lot Service. Donations collected will be distributed to area food pantries. Thank you for helping make the Christmas Season bright!

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today, Sunday 12/13: 9:30a Drive In worship; 10:30a Rumpff Baptism; *Happy Birthday Darlene Horneck and Christa Taylor!*

Monday 12/14: *Happy Birthday Natasha Verhulst, Steve Sheets, and Ivan Salm!*

Tuesday 12/15: *Happy Birthday Caitlin Vogel!*

Wednesday 12/16: 6:30pm Confirmation Class (virtual)

Thursday 12/17: *Happy Anniversary Everett & Helen Henning!*

Friday 12/18: *Happy Birthday Pam Talerico!*

Saturday 12/19:

Sunday 12/20: 9:30a Drive In worship; *Happy Birthday Merlin Ninmer, Rachel Suttner and Judy Brockway!*

Pantry item: Box of Cereal